DISCLAIMER

Users are warned that this historic issue of this publication series may contain language or views which, reflecting the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written, may be considered to be inappropriate or offensive today.

2. **Science and Industry Research Act 1920-39.**—This Act provides for a Council, consisting of—

(*a*) Three members nominated by the Commonwealth Government;
(*b*) the Chairman of each State Committee constituted under the Act; and
(*c*) such other members as the Council, with the consent of the Minister, co-opts by reason of their scientific knowledge.

The three Commonwealth nominees form an Executive Committee which may exercise, between meetings of the Council, all the powers and functions of the Council, of which the principal are as follows:—(*a*) To initiate and carry out scientific researches in connexion with primary or secondary industries in the Commonwealth; (*b*) to train research workers and to establish industrial research studentships and fellowships; (*c*) to make grants in aid of pure scientific research; (*d*) to establish industrial research associations in any industries; (*e*) to test and standardize scientific apparatus and instruments; (*f*) to establish a Bureau of Information; and (*g*) to act as a means of liaison between the Commonwealth and other countries in matters of scientific research.

State Committees, whose main function is to advise the Council as to matters that may affect their respective States, have been constituted in accordance with prescribed regulations.

3. **Science and Industry Endowment Act 1926.**—Under this Act, the Government has established a fund of £100,000, the income from which is to be used to provide assistance (*a*) to persons engaged in scientific research, and (*b*) in the training of students in scientific research. Provision is made for gifts or bequests to be made to the fund, which is controlled by a trust consisting of the three Commonwealth nominees on the Council. In accordance with the Act, arrangements have been made to send a number of qualified graduates abroad for training in special fields of work.

4. **Work of the Council.**—The full Council held its first meeting in June, 1926, and thereafter at about half-yearly intervals. It has adopted a policy of placing each of its major fields of related researches under the direction of an officer having a standing at least as high as, if not higher than, that of a University Professor.

The main branches of work of the Council at present are (i) plant problems, (ii) soil problems, (iii) entomological problems, (iv) animal health and nutrition problems, (v) forest products, (vi) food preservation and transport, (vii) radio research, (viii) ore-dressing (gold) and mineragraphic investigations, and (ix) fisheries investigations. Successful results have been obtained in a number of directions, particularly in regard to bitter pit in apples, spotted wilt in tomatoes, water blister of pineapples, blue mould of tobacco, the cultivation and drying of vine fruits, the cultivation of citrus fruits, contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle, the feeding of sheep for increased wool production, black disease, infectious entero-toxæmia, pulpy kidney and caseous lymphadenitis of sheep, internal parasites, coast disease of sheep, soil surveys, paper making from Australian timbers, timber seasoning and preservation, and the preservation and transport of bananas, oranges, chilled beef and other foodstuffs. The work of the Council has in the past been directed almost exclusively to the solution of problems affecting primary industries. The Commonwealth Government has decided to extend the activities of the Council so as to enable it to enter the field of secondary industrial research. Action is accordingly being taken for the erection of a National Standards Laboratory in Sydney, and an Aeronautical Research Laboratory in Melbourne. The nucleus of an Information Section has already been established at the Council's head offices, Melbourne, and plans are being developed for the initiation of research into problems affecting secondary industries. More detailed information concerning the work of the Council may be found in Year Book No. 22, p. 1009.

§ 6. Australian Institute of Anatomy.

1. **Foundation of Institute.**—The Australian Institute of Anatomy, situated in Canberra, occupies a monumental building erected by the Federal Government under the Zoological Museum Agreement Act of 1924. Prior to the passing of this Act, the

Federal Government had expressed regret that the Australian Nation possessed neither a collection of specimens of the unique and fast disappearing fauna of Australia, nor a Museum in which such specimens could be preserved for future generations. Comparative anatomy is the basis of medical science, and while the importance of a study of Australian animals in the solution of various medical problems had for years been recognized by other countries and steps taken by them to procure specimens for their museums, national effort in this direction was neglected in Australia. The late Sir Colin MacKenzie, the first Director of the Institute of Anatomy, however, very kindly presented to the Federal Government his entire private collection, and this magnificent gift was acquired and provision was made for its proper housing under special legislation by the Federal Government. In 1931 the Institute became an integral part of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

2. **Additions to Original Collection.**—In addition to the original collection, which has been greatly augmented, the following free gifts have been made to the Australian Nation, and are on view in the Institute :—

(1) *Horne-Bowie Collection.*—Dealing with the life of Central Australian aborigines, and throwing valuable light on the psychology of this Stone Age people.

(2) *Burrell Collection.*—This deals with the life history of the platypus, and is unique in the world. The platypus is the most primitive mammal known to science, and is the link between the bird, the reptile and the mammal.

(3) *Milne Collection.*—This is an anthropological and ethnological collection dealing with the aborigines of New South Wales, and contains many valuable and now unobtainable native weapons and implements.

(4) *Murray Black Collection* of anatomical material representative of the aborigines of Southern Victoria and the River Murray.

(5) *Nankivell Collection,* illustrating the anatomy of the aborigines of the Murray Valley.

(6) *Harvard University Collection.*—This includes a collection of specimens from the Harvard University, U.S.A., representing a carefully worked out epitome of archaeology of the United States, and, together with two rare skeletons of primitive North American Indians, was a goodwill gift from the University to the Institute of Anatomy.

(7) *The Sir Hubert Murray Collection.*—The ethnological and osteological collection of Sir Hubert Murray, Lieutenant-Governor of Papua. This deals especially with the anthropology of Papua.

(8) *The Rabaul Ethnological Collection.*—This concerns chiefly the Ethnology of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

(9) *The Basedow Collection.*—This collection has been recently purchased by the Commonwealth Government. It deals especially with the anthropology of Central and Northern Australia and was assembled, after many years of research, by the late Dr. Herbert Basedow of Adelaide, who was formerly Protector of Aborigines.

(10) Many hundreds of specimens and books received from numerous interested scientists, the most outstanding being those from Mr. E. Hill, of Nagambie, Victoria ; Mrs. Harry Burrell, New South Wales ; and medical books for the Library from the estates of the late Drs. Molloy, David Grant and Robert Stirling.

3. **Endowments for Orations and Lectures.**—In addition to the aforementioned donations of material, there have been several endowments for Orations and Lectures as follows :—

(1) *The Halford Oration.*—Endowed with a gift of £1,000 by the family of the late Professor G. B. Halford, founder of the first medical school in the Southern Hemisphere. The interest on this amount is given to a prominent scientist to deliver an oration on a subject suggested by the life and work of the late G. B. Halford.

(2) *The Anne MacKenzie Oration.*—Founded with a gift of £1,000 by the late Sir Colin MacKenzie, in memory of his mother. The orator receives the annual interest for delivering an oration on any phase of "Preventive Medicine".

(3) *The Dr. G. E. Morrison Memorial Lecture on Ethnology.*—Founded by Chinese residents in Australia, in memory of a great Australian who rendered important services to China.

(4) *The Kendall Lecture in Veterinary Science.*—Endowed by the sons of the late Dr. W. T. Kendall, who was the founder of the first Veterinary School in the Southern Hemisphere.

(5) *The Charles Mackay Lecture on Medical History.*—Endowed by Miss C. MacKenzie with a gift of £607 as a memorial to her grandfather, an educationalist, who arrived in Melbourne in 1852 and died at Kilmore, Victoria.

(6) *The Cilento Medal.*—This bronze medal has been endowed in perpetuity by Sir Raphael Cilento, Director-General of Health for Queensland, to be awarded annually to the scientist deemed to have accomplished the best practical work for the furtherance of Tropical Hygiene and Native Welfare in Australia.

4. **The Scope of the Institute.**—The building occupies portion of the site which has been reserved for the National University of Australia.

The Institute consists of two separate and distinct entities. Portion of the original collection of anatomical specimens assembled by the late Sir Colin MacKenzie is arranged in two large museums which are open to the general public. The material in these museums has been arranged so as to present simple lessons in human hygiene as well as to display the anatomical features and especially the peculiarities of Australian fauna.

The remainder of the building is devoted to research work where scientific investigations have been carried out in many branches of science. The large collections of bony anatomical material donated by Murray Black have provided most interesting and valuable data on aboriginal diseases. These have been studied in some detail.

In order to provide a reservoir of koalas upon which observations might be made of their peculiar food habits, a small reservation has been acquired, and fenced, about 40 miles from Canberra. In this area abounds the peculiar gum tree on which the Victorian koala feeds. This reservation has already been stocked with koalas from Victoria. Later other animals will be added.

In 1938, following upon the retirement due to ill-health of Sir Colin MacKenzie, the activities of the Institute were extended to interpret more fully the ideas of the founder. In the later years of his life Sir Colin had been keenly interested in the relationship of nutrition to the development of the child. When a section for the study of child growth and development was established by the Commonwealth Department of Health in 1938 the head-quarters were transferred to the Institute.

§ 7. The Commonwealth Solar Observatory.

1. **Reasons for Foundation.**—The Commonwealth Solar Observatory was established for the study of solar phenomena, for allied stellar and spectroscopic research, and for the investigation of associated terrestrial phenomena. It is so situated to complete the chain of existing astrophysical observatories round the globe separated by 90 degrees of longitude. In addition to advancing the knowledge of the universe and the mode of its development, it is hoped that the eventual discovery of the true relation between solar and terrestrial phenomena may lead to results which will prove of direct value to the country.

2. **History of Inauguration.**—A short account of the steps leading up to the establishment of the Observatory will be found in Official Year Book No. 19, p. 979.

3. **Site of the Observatory.**—The site selected for the observatory is on Mount Stromlo, a ridge of hills about 7 miles west of Canberra. The highest point is 2,560 feet above sea level, or about 700 feet above the general level of the Australian Capital City.